

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 002979

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/18/2025

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PTER](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: TNA PUSHING FOR STRONG RESPONSE TO TERROR ATTACKS

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert Ford.

Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (U) The Transitional National Assembly is taking a more public and critical role in national security policy following the latest string of suicide attacks in Iraq. TNA Speaker Hachim al-Hasani on July 17 proposed a three-minute moment of silence on Wednesday, July 20 at noon in memory of the victims of the Musayib bombing.

¶2. (C) The representatives passed that recommendation with a unanimous vote, but not before pushing a much wider array of more activist remedies. Influential cleric and SCIRI member Jalal al-Din al-Sagheer used the occasion to revive calls for the formation of Popular Security Committees. (Comment: In Iraqi political lexicon, a popular or local security committee usually means militias or irregular security forces. End Comment.) He described the string of attacks as a failure by MNF-I and said such committees needed to be formed to avert civil war. He called upon the Sunni leadership to condemn Ba'athists and terrorism. Shia parliamentarian Khudayr al-Khuzai'e warned that the Shia would eventually start retaliating for attacks against them and also urged that popular security committees be established. The TNA heard a classified report on the security situation in the July 18 session. We have heard that that report also pushed for the security committee idea and called for deeper de-Ba'athification and restructuring in the security ministries. The head of Iraq's intelligence service may also be called in for questioning.

¶3. (C) Comment: We have batted down the idea of Popular Security Committees in meetings with SCIRI leader Abd al-Aziz al-Hakim. SCIRI dropped the idea after our warnings about militia formation but clearly never dropped the idea. We will be meeting with members of the TNA Security and Defense Committee July 19 to hear the details of their classified report and see whether this idea has emerged in force. Until then we will continue to caution against vigilantism or militia activity as false solutions to a pressing security problem.

¶4. (U) REO HILLA, REO BASRA, REO MOSUL, and REO KIRKUK, minimize considered.

Satterfield